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Message Text

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45
ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /031 W
---------- 065518
R 131445Z APR 74
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1098

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 2021

EXDIS

FOR NEA/ATHERTON AND SOBER

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (CP HASSAN)
SUBJECT: SOBER VISIT

REF: A. AMMAN 1788
B. AMMAN 1697

1. FOLLOWING TELCON WITH SOBER I HAVE INFORMED CROWN PRINCE HASSAN THROUGH HIS OFFICE THAT THERE WOULD BE FURTHER DELAY IN REACHING A DECISION ON WHETHER SOBER COULD COME FROM WASHINGTON IN PERIOD PRIOR TO DEPARTURE OF CROWN PRINCEON HIS WORLD TRIP.

2. AS YOU WILL NOTICEFROM REFTELS, CROWN PRINCE'S CANCELLATION OF HIS EARLIER PLANS TO VISIT UNITED STATES BETWEEN APRIL 25 AND MAY 3 ARE IN PART CONTINGENT ON SECRETARY'S TRAVEL TO THIS AREA AND ALSO ON WHETHER SOBER COULD BE HERE DURING SAME RELATIVE TIME PERIOD IN ORDER TO HELP PREPARE FOR TRIP.

3. IT CONTINUES TO BE AN EMBARRASSMENT FOR ME TO HAVE TO HOLD OFF CROWN PRINCE WHO IS NOW IN PROCESS OF TRYING TO PLAN OTHER ARRANGEMENT OF HIS TRAVEL WHICH I UNDERSTAND WILL ALSO TAKE HIM TO REPUBLIC OF CHINA. IN EFFECT, ALL OF HIS PLANS ARE HINGED BOTH TO THE SOBER VISIT AND THE POSTPONEMENT OF HIS TRIP TO THE UNITED
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STATES UNTIL AFTER THE DATES FOR HIS FAR EASTERN TRAVEL.

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UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, I FEEL IT IMPERATIVE THAT
WE GIVE THE CROWN PRINCE SOME DEFINITE REPLY BY MONDAY,
APRIL 15. IF WE CANNOT ARRANGE TO HAVE SOBER VISIT THE
AREA BY THAT TIME, I AM PERSUADED IT WOULD BE BETTER TO
SAY IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM TO MAKE THE VISIT THEN AND
RELY INSTEAD ON WHATEVER PREPARATORY WORK WE COULD DO HERE
AT THE EMBASSY AND IN CONNECTION WITH WHATEVER TRAVEL
THE SECRETARY AND PARTY MIGHT BE MAKING TO THIS AREA
LATER IN THE MONTH.
PICKERING

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To: STATE
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